

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TAGS: SOPN AG MO SS

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN RELATIONS: ANTI-MOROCCAN THEMES IN
ALGERIAN MEDIA

1. OVER PAST SEVERAL DAYS, ALGERIAN MEDIA ATTACKS ON VARIOUS
ASPECTS OF MOROCCAN LIFE HAVE CONTINUED UNABATED. FOLLOWING
ARE THEMES TOUCHED ON:

A. REPRESSION: MEDIA CLAIM THAT MOROCCAN REGIME LASHING
OUT AT SUPPOSED DISSIDENTS, BOTH IN RABAT AND EL AYOUNG. IN
FORMER, WAVE OF ARRESTS OF INTELLECTUALS AND STUDENTS,
DISENCHANTED WITH OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS, SAID TO BE
PROCEEDING IN WAKE OF ANNIVERSARY OF BANNING OF NATIONAL
UNION OF MOROCCAN STUDENTS. IN EL AYOUN, MOROCCANS SAID TO
BE USING COLONIALIST METHODS AGAINST SAHRAOUI, DENYING THEM
RADIOS, KEEPING THEM OUT OF AIRPORT AND PORT REGIONS OF
TOWN, FORCING THEM TO HAVE PERMISSION TO LEAVE CITY, AND
ENFORCING CURFEW. NUMBER OF SAHRAOUI WOMEN ALSO SAID TO HAVE
DISAPPEARED FROM EL AYOUN IN MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
RECENTLY.

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B.MILITARY COMMUNIQUE: PRESS ALSO PUBLISHES NEW

SERIES OF POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE CLAIMING LARGE NUMBERS OF MOROCCAN DEATHS AS A RESULT OF CLASHES THROUGHOUT SAHARA IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO. NOAMES OF SOME 40 MOROCCAN PRISONERS AS WELL AS 7 ALLEGED DEFECTORS TO POLISARIO, ALSO PUBLISHED, AND ONE ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT 300 MOROCCAN OR MAURITANIAN PRISONERS DISPLAYED TO JOURNALISTS. MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT, CITED BY SPANISH AGENCY PYRESA, IS CLASH BETWEEN POLISARIO AND MOROCCAN 31ST BATTALION WHICH WAS ATTEMPTING TO MOVE FROM AOUSSEERD TO JDIRIA. THIRTY MOROCCAN OFFICERS AND MEN SAID TO HAVE BEEN CAPTURED. FINALLY, PRESS CARRIES PRESS REPORT THAT COLONELS DLIMI AND OTHMANE HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN IN MOROCCO IN PUBLIC SINCE MARCH 3 AND ARE SUFFERING FROM GRAVE WOUNDS INCURRED IN SAHARA.

C. MELILLA: TWO ARTICLES ON SPANISH-MOROCCAN ENCLAVE, MELILLA, STRESS COLONIALIST CORRUPTION, NOTABLY IN DRUGS AND SMUGGLING. MOROCCAN FAT CATS ALLEGEDLY PARTICIPATING IN SPANISH-ORCHESTRATED DOLCE VITA.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE FOREGOING, DIPLOMAT CORPS HERE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT SITUATION IN SAHARA BASICALLY CALM. PARKER

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